

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 EB-08 SCA-01

TRSE-00 AID-05 L-03 H-02 NSC-05 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1097

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS MAZATLAN 0088

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX, PINT, EGEN, CGEN, SNAR

SUBJ: OBSERVATIONS OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S CULIACAN VISIT

REF: MAZATLAN'S 0078

1. IN COVERING PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S VISIT TO SINALOA, CULIACAN'S OUTSPOKEN "EL DEBATE" COMMENTED IN PART THAT IT WAS GOOD THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO HAD COME TO SINALOA BECAUSE THE STATE HAD STILL NOT OVERCOME THE CRISES OF 76. THE ARTICLE FURTHER STATED THAT DESPITE DENIALS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT, THERE ARE STILL INVASIONS OF PRIVATE LANDS; THE VIOLENCE GENERATED BY DRUG TRAFFICKING CONTINUES CHOKING THE CULIACAN SOCIETY IN A RIVER OF BLOOD AND FEAR; TWENTY-SIX ASSASSINATIONS IN SINALOA IN JANUARY, OF WHICH SEVENTEEN WERE COMMITTED IN CULIACAN; CORRUPTION AMONG THE OFFICIALS VEILED WITH THE CLOAK OF JUDICIAL OR EXECUTIVE ACTION; A SINALOA WHERE THE AUTHORITIES EXTOL ACTS COMMITTED ON THE MARGIN OF THE LAW; A SINALOA WHERE OFFICIALS FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ARE PROMOTING LAND INVASIONS WHICH ARE ALLEGEDLY SPONTANEOUS.

2. THE ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO IS ALREADY AWARE OF ALL OF THESE PROBLEMS. HE IS CONVINCED THAT

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THE PEOPLE OF SINALOA BELIEVE IN HIM, HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HIS REGIME AND IN THE FUTURE OF MEXICO, AND HE IS SURE THAT THE SINALOAN PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE WORKING IN SPITE OF THE OBSTACLES BEING PLACED BY THOSE WHO ARE STILL DREAMING OF THE PAST AND DO NOT REALIZE THAT WE ARE NOW LIVING IN THE PRESENT AND LOOKING FORWARD TO A FUTURE WITHOUT DEMAGOGERY.

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S VISIT WAS INDEED SHORT, ONLY SIX HOURS, AND OBSERVERS COMMENT THAT HE DID GET A FULL REPORT ON THE LAND PROBLEM AND PERCHANCE AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF CONDOR 1, WHOSE OFFICIALS AND TROOPS ARE IN HOT PURSUIT OF THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS IN SINALOA.

MATTHEWS

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